Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 01595 181818Z ACTION SS-25

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O R 181808Z JAN 78 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4426 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY LONDON

SECRETPARIS 01595

USMISSION USNATO

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, SALT, FR

SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH ON SALT AND GRAY AREAS

REF: STATE 013264

- 1. REFTEL REQUESTED OUR VIEWS ON WHETHER A STOP BY US SALT TEAM IN PARIS WOULD BE DESIRED AND STATED THAT THIS QUESTION WILL ALSO BE PUT TO DE LABOULAYE.
- 2. LABOULAYE IS WELL-QUALIFIED TO DISCUSS SALT, WHICH HE DID REGULARLY AS POLITICAL DIRECTOR HERE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN VIEW OF THE AGREEMENT DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT THAT THE INITIAL BILATERAL TALKS SHOULD BE HANDLED BY LABOULAYE, WE BELIEVE THAT A WASHINGTON CONSULTATION WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO START. IN ADDITION, GISCARD HAS REFLECTED A GREAT DEAL OF SENSITIVITY ABOUT THESE TALKS (WE ASSUME IN VIEW OF THE GAULLISTS STILL IN THE GOVERNMENT), AND WE THINK THAT A 6-MAN TEAM COMING TO PARIS MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR THE FRENCH TO HANDLE AT THIS TIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE BELIEVE THAT THE SECRET

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FRENCH SHOULD BE OFFERED MORE OR LESS THE SAME THING THAT THE FRG AND THE UK ARE BEING OFFERED. THEREFORE WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT LABOULAYE BE TOLD THAT US TEAM (HOPEFULLY A SMALLER TEAM THAN THE ONE PROPOSED) WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO STOP IN PARIS IF FRENCH DESIRE.

3. AS THESE TALKS DEVELOP, WE HOPE THAT THE LOCUS

CAN ULTIMATELY BE SHIFTED TO PARIS BECAUSE:

- A. IT IS HERE THAT FRENCH STUDIES AND OPTIONS PAPERS ARE WRITTEN FOR THE FRENCH PRESIDENT AND CABINET LEADERS.
- B. THE GOF ARMS CONTROL APPARATUS HERE NEEDS EDUCATION SO AS TO BE ABLE TO BETTER INTERPRET STRATEGIC ISSUES AND US POSITIONS.
- C. WHILE WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT LABOULAYE AND HIS NOTE-TAKER WILL WRITE COMPETENT REPORTS TO PARIS, THOSE INVOLVED IN PARIS WILL NOT HAVE THE CHANCE TO RAISE QUESTIONS OR FOLLOW-UP ON POINTS WHICH MAY BE TROUBLING THE GOF.
- D. THE GOF IS DEVELOPING ITS OWN ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVE. CONSULTATION WITH THE US CAN IMPROVE THE CHANCES THAT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE WILL BE SUPPORTIVE OF US OBJECTIVES.
- 4. IF INITIAL TALKS TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON, WE WOULD APPRECIATE A READOUT ON THEM. HARTMAN

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TAGS: PARM, FR, US

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